

DRAFT Summary of September 8, 2011 Passaic CAG Meeting

Agenda Items

- Update on the phase 1 removal
- Super JTI job training
- Lessons Learned on Hudson River Project
- CAG leadership and outreach

Action Items for CAG Members

- CAG members are asked to send Victor Monterossa any ideas for a local representative or organizations to help organize the local job training initiative (this will be a short-term paid opportunity, Victor's new email is vic.monte@rutgers.edu).

General Updates

- Construction on the Phase 1 removal has begun. EPA will be preparing a press release and make an appropriate in the coming month.
- The COE has posted a list of all the restoration opportunities on their website, there are 18 sites on the main river and about 20 on tributaries. These can be reviewed at www.nan.usace.army.mil. Lisa Baron will provide a short presentation on this at the October meeting.
- A judge has ruled on DEC's motion on for summary judgment regarding Occidental's liability for cleanup, and ruled that Occidental is a successor company to the site and is therefore responsible for past and future costs of cleanup. On 8/24, the same judge ruled that Tierra is also not an innocent purchaser of the property under the NJ spill act and therefore liable for cleanup costs. Next year a similar trial for Maxis will be conducted.
- Even though sampling is temporarily delayed on the 8 mile project due to flooding, everything is on schedule for decision-making as outlined at the last meeting. I was asked whether this flood event provided the opportunity to gather good information for river modeling under extreme events. Some of this was done in March 2010 when the high flow event reached 15,000 ft³/second. Current flows reached 21,000 ft³/s, and so would provide another opportunity.
- It was asked whether EPA could craft some press releases to help local towns deal with contaminated sediments. Some communication does happen, DEC will provide an update on this at the next meeting to discuss how was this handled.
- It was also asked how the crab and fish consumption advisory blitz will be handled and how the CAG could help. DEC agreed to also look into this and provide an update on this at the next meeting

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Phase 1 Removal

- Tierra is waiting for an air permit equivalency from the state which addresses emission from both contaminated materials and construction equipment at the removal and treatment areas.
- Project is now mobilizing, coring holes for tiebacks, drilling and installation of tiebacks will occur in October. Sheetpile work will also begin in October. The pipeline construction will begin later this fall.
- Project timing is contingent on NJDOT work on the Lincoln Highway Bridge, which should be completed soon.
- Work has also begun at the upland processing at Blanchard Ave--grading, laying down stone, beginning to pour concrete for pads for equipment. The filter presses will be delivered in early October.
- Dredging and processing will begin in March and continue for approximately 3 months.
- Backfilling will occur in July/August 2012, and sheetpile enclosure will be removed in September. Only the tiebacks to secure the wall will be left behind.
- The CHASP current version is still the interim version from June which the CAG has reviewed, and representing the design delivered to EPA in July. The CHASP will be updated to reflect final design.
- A project website is now up and has had a lot of hits after the press release. It is linked to ourpassaic.org or can be reached directly at <http://passaicremovalaction.com/>
- The Community Hotline and Investigation/Response Process (CHIRP) is now operational at 1-888-283-7626 or CHIRP@passaicremovalaction.com. Shortly, an automated hotline will be available in Spanish and Portuguese at 1-877-777-5853 which will allow folks to leave a message and get a response.
- EPA is planning an informal Q/A-type public availability session on the removal project in October.
- A CAG tour of the facility is also being discussed.

Super JTI job training

- Skeo is the EPA contractor that will interview and select trainees and conduct the training program. Victor has been discussing the project with them.
- 8 positions will be available starting in March 2012 and will last about 5 months.
- Arcadis is looking at the makeup of the needed workforce to see if they can add a few more positions to that 8.
- Skeo will make any presentations needed to local groups and provide all information needed but wants to make sure that they are not overwhelmed with candidates.
- Skeo is looking for someone to develop strategy for identifying candidates,

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organize meetings, and do the local work.

- CAG members are asked to send victor any ideas for a local representative or organizations to help organize the local job training initiative (this will be a short-term paid opportunity, Victor's new email is vic.monte@rutgers.edu).

Lessons Learned on Hudson River Project

- 2007-2009 construction of the upland treatment facility.
- EPA provided a number of towns with new water pipelines and alternate water supplies.
- There has been an 80% increase in the amount of contaminated materials actually found in the field vs. what was expected.
- Hudson has a limited construction season as locks open May thru November
- Disposal of materials first to Texas but now going to facilities in Idaho and Michigan.
- EPA learned a lot about resuspension, now taking fewer passes, removing the big debris but dredging the smaller debris.
- Conducting habitat restoration, over 70000 plants put in place, survival has been an issue, and many plants being redone this year
- Have seen some short term impacts on fish, but do not believe there will be any lasting impacts.
- Peer review report on the initial dredging is now on line at epa.gov/Hudson. It is a very useful report, with lots of good recommendations and helped EPA and GE to get together on a common approach. It was a group of external experts picked by the two parties. Included DOE, dredgers, Fox river contractor.
- Data can be found at <http://hudsondredgingdata.com/>

Topics for the October Meeting

- Update on air permitting for the phase 1 removal project
- Presentation on USACE restoration opportunities
- DEC update on communication regarding contaminated sediments during recent flooding.
- DEC update on the planned crab and fish consumption advisory blitz.